Community Profile

Borroloola

1st edition
March 2010

Funded by the Australian Government
This Community Profile provides you with information specific to the South East Top End Region of the Northern Territory. The information has been compiled through a number of text and internet resources, and consultations with members of the local communities.

The first version of this Community Profile was prepared for RAHC by The Echidna Group and we acknowledge and thank Dr Terri Farrelly and Ms Bronwyn Lumby for their contribution.

Other sources include:
www.exploroz.com/Places/27055/NT/Borroloola.aspx
www.ntgpe.org/communityprofiles/remotecentres/borroloola.html

RAHC would also like to acknowledge and express gratitude to the Aboriginal people of the South East Top End Region who have so generously shared aspects of their culture and communities for use in this Profile.

*Please note: The information provided in this community profile is correct, to the best of RAHC’s knowledge, at the time of printing. This community profile will be regularly updated as new information comes to hand.

If you have any further information about this community that would be useful to add to this profile please contact RAHC via: enquiries@rahc.com.au or call 1300 MYRAHC.
The Northern Territory

This map of the Northern Territory, divided into regions, has been adapted from the Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health (OATSIH) Program Management & Implementation Section (2008) Map of the Northern Territory.

The depicted areas are for the purpose of the Remote Area Health Corps Community Profiles alone, and do not represent any Aboriginal language group, land or cultural group boundaries.
South East Top End Area Profile

This map of the South East Top End Area has been taken from the map of the Northern Territory, adapted from the OATSIH Program Management & Implementation Section (2008) Map of the Northern Territory.

Languages in the Region

The below languages are present in the South East Top End region. However it should be noted that as a result of colonisation, the growth of towns, and the transient nature of some Aboriginal peoples, there may be many different Aboriginal languages evident in a given area.

Yanyuwa
Garawa
Kriol

Kriol is the contact language now spoken as a first language by most Aboriginal people across the region. Kriol is spoken in the Barkly and further north, but not generally far south of Tennant Creek.

Aboriginal Interpreter Service
www.dlghs.nt.gov.au/ais
NT Dept of Local Govt & Housing
Central booking service 08 8999 8353

The AIS Provides 24 hours 7 days a week central booking service.
Borroloola

Borroloola is a remote outback town with a rich heritage centred around mining, Aboriginal culture and the Gulf’s favourite past-time: fishing! Considered a lawless outpost when first gazetted as a township in 1885, Borroloola is almost as famous for it’s unique characters as it is for its fishing.

Borroloola is a small town located 350 km east of the Daly Waters turn-off and south of the Gulf of Carpentaria; it is the centre of the Yanyuwa Aboriginal people and the cattle stations of the surrounding area. There is some confusion as to what the word ‘Borroloola’ means. Some sources have suggested that it means ‘tea-tree’, others suggest that it translates as ‘place of the paperbarks’, others however consider it to means ‘fresh or running water’ and others claim that it is the Aboriginal name for the area and means nothing.

Borroloola is a thriving community which is largely based around tourism. Borroloola is a town with a predominantly Aboriginal population. There are a few shops, a lively pub and the fishing in the Macarthur River is considered one of the best in the northern Territory. Each year a competition is held to catch the largest "Barramundi". The surroundings of Borroloola are eye-catching too, with clear rivers and swimming holes like those on the Wearyan River, Batten Creek and Bone Lagoon, although the latter is on an Aboriginal owned station, it is not advisable to swim in the Macarthur River as large "salties" (crocodiles) may be seen. Borroloola can be accessed via the Carpentaria Highway, which departs Stuart Highway at Daly Waters. It takes about 6-7 hours driving from Katherine to Borroloola.

Governance

Borroloola have a Shire Service Centre for Roper-Gulf Shire, after the recent amalgamations of councils throughout the NT.

Things to do

A great place to visit is the old Police Station which is now a museum, the McArthur River, King Ash Bay, Bing Bong. There is also a great little waterfall upstream from the crossing at the Wearyan River. There are a variety of shops and markets that you can purchase supplies from.

Travelers usually enjoy heading out of town, and just north is a fishing club and camp at King Ash Bay. Please note this is not a resort. Other areas of interest include:

- Caranbirini Conservation Reserve - explore the ancient Sandstone Rock formations
- The Lost City - Sandstone Columns are in the Abner Range, accessible by air
- The Baranyi National Park - long sandy white beaches home of the Yanuwa people
- Borroloola Regional Museum - located in the old Police Station, contains aboriginal artifacts & pioneer history
- The Pioneer Graves - View the graves of the pioneers came to the region in the 1800s
- Nathan River Station - approx 150 kms from Borroloola, unique Sandstone Formations
- The Worlds longest registered Road Train - the longest in the world
- Borroloola town lookout - lookout over Borroloola and the surrounding area

Climate

Borroloola has hot summer temperatures. The summer high temperature for Borroloola is approximately 34 °c. The summer low temperature is approximately 24 °c.

Borroloola has warm winter temperatures. The winter high temperature for Borroloola is approximately 33 °c. The winter low temperature is approximately 16 °c.
Community Services

- Two petrol stations
- Supermarket
- Post Office
- Caravan park
- Air strip (used by smaller planes, the RAAF and the RFDS. Main strip for scheduled flights is at the mine, 60km along the sealed Carpentaria Highway, toward the Stuart Highway)
- School
- Health Centre
- Police Station
- Women’s shelter
- Aged care centre

Health Centre

The Community Health Centre, managed by the Northern Territory Government Department of Health and Community Services, provides an essential Primary Health Care service to the community.

There are four nurses and six Aboriginal Health Workers on staff to service the needs of the locals and visitors to the community. The Health Centre is located at 9 Garawa Street.

Programs running in the community

- Meals On Wheels
- Substance abuse support
- School screening — annually
- Old people screening — ongoing
- Well women checks — ongoing
- Well men checks — ongoing
- Under 5 screening — ongoing
- Immunisation
- Chronic Disease Outreach
- Maternal and child health
- Communicable Disease reporting and management
- Home visiting services (as required)
- Palliative care (as required)
- School screening services

Outstations Serviced:
The health centre provides services for up to 30 outstations, communities and cattle stations
Getting Advice
The following organisations and contact numbers may be useful in locating sources of advice about Borroloola. Care has been taken to ensure these details are correct, however unfortunately some may change or be unattended.

Borroloola Community Government Council
Robinson Rd Borroloola NT 0854
Ph: 08 8975 8758

Mabunji Aboriginal Resource Association
Robinson Rd Borroloola NT 0854
Ph: 08 8975 8746

Mungoorbada Aboriginal Corporation
PMB 80 via Katherine NT 0851
Ph: 08 8975 9791
Mungoorbada1@bigpond.com

Northern Land Council
Robinson Rd Mara Mara Camp Borroloola NT 0854
Ph: 08 8975 8848